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Ecological Wisdom  
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# *the Greens*

## Green Party USA

Decentralization  
Community-based Economics  
Feminism  
Respect for Diversity  
Personal and Global Responsibility  
Future Focus

May 7, 1999

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
1919 M Street NW room 222  
Washington, DC 20054

Re: MM Docket 99-25

To Whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the members of the Greens/Green Party USA, we would like to offer a comment on the proposal to introduce low power FM radio broadcast licenses.

We are very glad to learn of your support for low-power radio and your recognition that the current system puts the medium of radio far from the reach of most citizens. However, we are very concerned that crucial elements will be left out of the new regulation, closing off an opportunity to make radio a more democratic medium.

First, we believe that the proposal should reintroduce not only 1000 and 100 watt licenses, but also 10 watt licenses. Further, the emphasis should be on smaller stations (100 and 10 watts), in order to make them more accessible to the majority of people. From our members' experience in community radio, stations under 100 watts are large enough to serve a community, and small enough to remain within the influence of the same community. 1000 watt stations, particularly in urban areas, do not have as much potential for community control and participation, and also take up broadcast space which could otherwise be used for more stations, thus ensuring a greater diversity of views and content.

Second, it is clear that the new micropower stations should be treated as a community asset, and reserved for non-commercial and/or community radio. As you know, the public theoretically owns the broadcast airways, and yet radio stations are becoming larger and concentrated in fewer hands. For the sake of diversity and freedom of speech, we ask that micropower radio be placed within the reach of those who have not been able to pay for access under the current system, including non-profits, community organizations, and economically disadvantaged groups.

Please consider these requests from a national grassroots organization committed to democracy, justice, and peace.

Sincerely,

Starlene Rankin,  
Lionel Trepanier,  
Marc Loveless,  
Members, G/GPUSA Coordinating Committee

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